



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Pennsylvania Agricultural
Statistics Service
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405
(717) 787 3904
FAX (717) 782 4011

Pennsylvania Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

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PENNSYLVANIA'S VEGETABLE ACREAGE

HARRISBURG --- Vegetable processors in **Pennsylvania** have contracted 6,000 acres of snap beans in 2000, 2,400 acres below the 8,400 acres contracted in 1999, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.

Sweet corn processors have contracted 2,500 acres, 300 acres less than the 2,800 acres contracted in 1999.

United States' processors have contracted 1.37 million acres of vegetables in 2000 for the nation's five major vegetable crops (snap beans, sweet corn, cucumbers for pickles, green peas, and tomatoes). This is down 2 percent from 1999.

U.S. snap bean processors contracted 207,480 acres, down 1 percent from last year. Sweet corn processors contracted 470,000 acres, down 1 percent from the previous year. Tomato processors contracted 300,000 acres in 2000, a decrease of 15 percent from last year. Tomato production is forecast at 10.5 million tons, down 17 percent from 1999.

U.S. pickle packers contracted 86,690 acres, up less than 1 percent compared to 86,370 acres contracted in 1999. Green pea processors contracted 302,300 acres, up 5 percent from last year.

Pennsylvania's forecasts based on the 2000 July Fresh Market Vegetable Survey indicate an increase in harvested acreage for fresh market sweet corn. Fresh sweet corn acres for harvest are forecast at 17,000, an 8 percent increase from last year's 15,800 acres and 1 percent less than the 1998 average.

At the **United States'** level, prospective acreage for harvest of 12 selected fresh market vegetables for the summer season in the major producing states is estimated at 318,600 acres, down 2 percent from last year but 1 percent above 1998. The major fresh market vegetables included are the following: snap beans, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, head lettuce, bell peppers and tomatoes.

Forecasts for sweet corn harvested acreage in the United States decreased 12 percent to 112,800 acres in 2000. Fresh market tomato acres for harvest are forecast at 41,700 acres, down 2 percent from 1999.